

applied himself to *Æsop*, who told him that *he could do nothing*: my comrades, says he, have agreed to do every thing, and there will be nothing left for me to do. Well but if I give money for you, says *Xanthus*, will you be good and honest? I'll be that, says *Æsop*, whether you buy me or not. Ay, but won't you run away, says the philosopher? Pray, said *Æsop*, did a bird in a cage ever tell his master that he intended to make his escape? The philosopher applauded the quickness of his wit, but told him that his unlucky shape would set people a staring and hooting at him wherever he went. A philosopher, says *Æsop*, should esteem a man for his mind, and not for his body; as this answer gave *Xanthus* an high opinion of his wisdom, he bid the merchant set his lowest price on that miserable creature. Sir, says the master, if you will bid me like a chapman for one of the other two, you shall have this monster into the bargain. In short, the purchase was made, and *Xanthus*, taking *Æsop* home, presented him to his wife, who was not a little offended at his mis-shapen appearance, but when she came to converse with him and heard his witty answers, she was so well

well reconciled to him somewhat of a favourite.

Some time after this with him to a gardener the gardener desired to know him why those plants of his own accord, grew so much planted? *Xanthus* could answer, than that provided which not being satisfied and seeing *Æsop* smile, with a supercilious air, philosopher to busy himself and that, if he had a mind he would do well to ask the gardener applied to him gave him this answer, "the nature of a mother brings forth such things as she brings forth," "step-mother only, will be obliged to raise by the child," "It is no wonder that the child take most care of her mother," "The gardener was so pleased with him that he would take nothing